

Indiana Safe Routes to School Program

Accepting
Applications:

Spring 2007

Online Information:

<http://www.state.in.us/dot/div/programs/saferoutes>

<http://www.saferoutesinfo.org>

<http://safety.fhwa.dot.gov/saferoutes/>



Photos: www.pedbikeimages.org
Photographer: Dan Burden



Indiana Safe Routes to School Program

Michael O'Loughlin
Safe Routes to School Program
100 N. Senate Ave., N958
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (317) 232-5653

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Indiana
Department of
Transportation

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What is the Safe Routes to School Program?

The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Program empowers communities to make walking and bicycling to schools safe and routine for school children.

Walking and bicycling to school was once a part of everyday life. In 1969, about half of all students walked or bicycled to school. Today, fewer than 15-percent of all school trips are made by walking or bicycling, while more than half of all children arrive at school by car.

Parents often say traffic danger, distance and lack of sidewalks and paths are the reasons why their children don't bike or walk to school.



What types of projects are eligible for Safe Routes to School funding?

Reimbursements are available for a wide variety of activities that encourage children to walk and bicycle safely to school:

- School route travel plans
- Walking or bicycling route evaluations
- Walk and bike to school promotion
- Bicycle safety rodeos
- "Walking school bus" programs
- "Bicycle train" programs
- Crossing guard training and equipment
- Safe walking and bicycling education

The program also funds construction projects that make walking and bicycling to school possible:

- Crosswalks
- Curb ramps
- Sidewalks
- On-street bike lanes
- Shared use paths
- Bicycle parking and racks
- Safe route signage
- Pavement markings
- Traffic calming and speed reduction
- Pedestrian crossing flashers

What are the benefits of the Safe Routes to School Program?

Evidence shows children who lead sedentary lifestyles are at greater risk for health problems such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease. This decline in walking and bicycling also increases traffic congestion and reduces air quality around schools. Benefits of the program include:

- Safer bicycling and walking
- Increased walking and bicycling to and from school for grades K-8
- Decreased car and truck traffic
- Improved childhood health
- Reduced childhood obesity
- Healthier and more active lifestyles
- Improved air quality
- Reduced fuel consumption
- Increased community security, accessibility and involvement
- Greater interest in facilities for bicycling and walking

